Amendment After Final Rejection
Serial No. 09/846,596   PHNL 000240

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of data management on a
storage medium (10), the storage medium (10) comprising a variety of blocks (21) in
which data can be stored, a first block (22) from said variety being selected to execute a
mutation on, characterized by determining whether the wear level of the first block (22)
is acceptable for executing the mutation, and if so, executing the mutation on the first
block (22), and otherwise

• choosing from said variety a second block (23) with a lower wear level than the first
  block (22), and

• copying the data of the second block (23) to the first block (22),

        wherein the blocks from said variety have an associated counter for
counting the number of mutations in the block concerned, and a limit value is increased
when a predetermined number, which is at least the majority, of the counters of the
blocks from said variety exceed the limit value, said determining being based on said
limit value and a value of the counter of the first block (22).

2.   (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that when the value of the counter of the first block (22) is smaller than
the limit value, the value of the counter is increased and the mutation is executed, and
otherwise a block of which the counter has a lower value than the counter of the first
block (22) is chosen as the second block (23).

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3.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the lower value is the lowest value of the values of the counters of the blocks from said variety.

4.   (Cancelled).

5.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the second block (23) is erased after the data of the second block (23) have been copied to the first block (22).

6.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the mutation comprises erasing the first block (22).

7.   (Previously Presented) A system for data management on a storage medium (10), the storage medium (10) comprising a variety of blocks (21) in which data can be stored, the system being arranged for selecting a first block (22) from said variety to execute a mutation on, characterized by control means (26) for determining whether the wear level of the first block (22) is acceptable for executing the mutation, and if so, executing the mutation on the first block (22), and for otherwise

•   choosing from said variety a second block (23) with a lower wear level than the first block (22), and

•   copying the data of the second block (23) to the first block (22),

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wherein the blocks from said variety have an associated counter for counting the number of mutations in the block concerned, and the control means (26) are arranged for increasing a limit value when a predetermined number, which is at least the majority, of the counters of the blocks from said variety exceed the limit value, said determining being based on said limit value and a value of the counter of the first block (22).

8.   (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the control means (26) are arranged for, when the value of the counter of the first block (22) is smaller than the limit value, increasing the value of the counter and executing the mutation, and for otherwise choosing a block of which the counter has a lower value than the counter of the first block (22) as the second block (23)

9.   (Original) A system as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the lower value is the lowest value of the values of the counters of the blocks from said variety.

10.   (Cancelled).

11.   (Original) A system as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the system is arranged for initially constructing a table in which the value of the counters of the blocks are stated.

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12.   (Original) A system as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the control means (26) are arranged for erasing the second block (23) after the data from the second block (23) have been copied to the first block (22).

13.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium and enabling a programmable device to function as a system as claimed in claim 7.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said copying is preceded by the step of copying to another block (24) any stored data of said first block (22) that is not marked for erasure.

15.   (Currently Amended) A method of data management on a storage medium (10), the storage medium (10) comprising a variety of blocks (21) in which data can be stored, a first block (22) from said variety being selected to execute a mutation on, characterized by determining whether the wear level of the first block (22) is acceptable for executing the mutation, and if so, executing the mutation on the first block (22), and otherwise

- choosing from said variety a second block (23) with a lower wear level than the first block (22), and

- copying the data of the second block (23) to the first block (22),

        wherein the blocks from said variety have an associated counter for counting the number of mutations in the block concerned, and a limit value is increased

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when a predetermined number, which is at least the majority, of the counters of the blocks from said variety exceed the limit value, said determining being based on said limit value and a value of the counter of the first block (22)~~The method of claim 1~~, said method being configured for execution on a computer system so that if said determining, said choosing and said copying are executed with respect to said first block by ~~a~~said computer system in a first iteration, said computer system is configured to, in the event of a second iteration with respect to said first block, again execute said determining even if said value of the counter of the first block (22) exceeded said limit value in said first iteration, said limit value not having since changed.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined number is equal to said majority.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said processor copied data to said first block in said first iteration as a result of determining that said value of the counter of the first block exceeded said limit value.

18.   (Canceled).